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men he knew of was the type in the Museum of the Jardin des Plantes. Besides that and the one in the British Museum, there are at least mounted specimens in the Ceylon Government Museum and the Madras Government Museum as well as, now, in the United States National Museum. The typical species is common about the Seychelles Islands. Dr. Bashford Dean informs me that it was also noticed during the voyage of the *Siboga*.

It is greatly to be deplored that the opportunity to obtain the skeleton and some of the soft parts of the Florida shark was not utilized for the National Museum. A rare opportunity was afforded by the waif of the Florida shore which is not likely to be repeated for a long time.

It may be added that *Rhineodon* was the first name applied to the genus and that possibly the American fishes may be specifically distinct from the type and entitled to the name *Rhineodon punctatus*.

Theo. Gill.

Cosmos Club,
Washington, April 28, 1902.

A METEORIC IRON.

A meteoric iron which weighed a little less than nine pounds, and which as respects its shape and its surface markings seems to be almost unique, has recently come into the possession of the University of Wisconsin. The fall of this iron was not observed, but it was turned up by a plow in 1887 on a farm near Algoma post office, Kewaunee county, Wisconsin. Since that time and until March of the present year it had remained about the farm upon which it was brought to the light.

Instead of the usual lumpy form, this find has the shape of an elliptical shield, the major axis of which is about ten inches, the minor axis six inches, and the maximum (central) thickness about an inch. The smoothness and density of the convex surface is in sharp contrast with the irregularities and the crust of oxide upon the concave side. There is no reason to doubt that the projectile moved broadside on with the convex surface (Brustseite) to the front during its translation through the aerosphere. Upon this surface strongly marked radial lines are arranged like the rays of a solar plexus about a central, nearly flat elliptical boss some inches in diameter, and these lines increase steadily in depth as they approach the periphery. The Widmannstätten figures show no trace of deformation. Shortly after this find began to be studied by the writer a copy of Professor Cohen's paper on the flat meteoric iron from N'Goureyma in the Soudan (Griefswald, 1902) came into his hands. The two meteorites are in many respects similar, though the Algoma iron has the greater symmetry and much more perfect surface markings. It will shortly be more fully described.

W. H. Hobbs.

THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA.

The fourteenth summer meeting of the Society will be held in Pittsburgh on Tuesday, July 1, in the room assigned to Section E, American Association for the Advancement of Science. The place now designated is the lecture room of the Oakland M. E. Church, very near the hotel headquarters. The Council will meet on Monday evening at the hotel. The Society will be called to order by the president, Professor N. H. Winchell, on Tuesday morning immediately following the general session of the Association.

The preliminary list of papers will be mailed about June 7. The Fellows are requested to send their titles and abstracts of papers upon the printed form as early as possible, and not later than June 3. By rule of the Council abstracts are required. Papers offered for printing in the *Bulletin* should be fully described on the blank forms, copies of which will be promptly sent on request.

The circular sent to the Fellows March 11, announced an excursion, under the guidance of Dr. I. C. White, through the Coal Measures of western Pennsylvania and northern West Virginia during the week preceding the Association meeting. The party will assemble at the Monongahela House on Monday evening, June 23. This hotel will be headquarters during the week of the excursion; the rate will be

$3 per day, American plan. Persons wishing to join this party should send their names to Dr. I. C. White, Morgantown, W. Va., without delay. During the Association meeting some shorter excursions are proposed, under the direction of Mr. James R. Macfarlane. When the details of the several excursions are perfected, a special circular relating to them will be issued.

The Hotel Schenley has been selected by the local committee, A. A. A. S., as the headquarters.

All persons attending the meetings in conjunction with the A. A. A. S. can secure the customary reduction in railway rates, to one and one third fare for the round trip, by obtaining a certificate at the starting point in the name of the Association. Tickets may be bought from June 19 to June 30.

HERMAN LE ROY FAIRCHILD,
Secretary.

ROCHESTER, N. Y.,
May 15, 1902.

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC SCIENCE AT THE PITTSBURGH MEETING OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION.

THE next meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science will be held at Pittsburgh from June 30 to July 3, 1902. The easily accessible location of the place of meeting, combined with its peculiar economic interest as a great industrial center, offers the opportunity to Section I for an exceptionally successful session. To make it such the hearty cooperation of all members of the Section is needed. They are cordially invited to attend the sessions and to contribute papers to the proceedings. They should inform the secretary as promptly as possible of the title and the probable length of any paper that they may care to present, so that notice of it may appear in the preliminary program.

CARROLL D. WRIGHT,
Chairman.
FRANK R. RUTTER,
Secretary.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
WASHINGTON, May 2, 1902.

SHORTER ARTICLES.

STREPTOCOCCI CHARACTERISTIC OF SEWAGE AND SEWAGE-POLLUTED WATERS APPARENTLY NOT HITHERTO REPORTED IN AMERICA.*

DURING the last few years the brilliant researches of the bacteriologists connected with the Local Government Board of England have revealed two new organisms which, with the *Bacillus coli communis*, are likely to be of great service in tracing the history of water pollution. These are the *Bacillus enteritidis sporogenes* of Klein, and the sewage *Streptococcus* of Houston; so that now with three forms, all apparently characteristic of a sewage flora, the sanitary bacteriologist finds himself in a position to form a reliable opinion of the antecedents of any water submitted to him for examination.

The importance of the streptococci to the sanitarian was first pointed out by Dr. A. C. Houston in an article entitled, 'Bacterioscopic Examination of Drinking Water, with Particular Reference to the Relations of Streptococci and Staphylococci with Waters of this Class,' published in the Report of the Medical Officer to the Local Government Board for 1898–9 (Supplement, XXVIII. Ann. Rep., L. G. B.). He there stated that he had isolated both streptococci and staphylococci from polluted soils, from crude sewage, from sewage effluents and from impure waters; but he laid stress mainly upon organisms of the former class, as germs unlikely to persist for a long period outside the animal body, and therefore indicative of fresh pollution. He concluded by stating that the streptococci 'are organisms readily demonstrable in waters recently polluted and seemingly altogether absent from waters above suspicion of contamination. * * * Search for them should * * * constitute an important part of bacterioscopic analysis of potable waters.' In the report of the Medical Officer of the Local Government Board for 1899–1900 Dr. Houston extended his investigations to the study of a large number of additional samples of polluted waters and soils, with the result that the presence of the streptococci seemed always to coincide with

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* Preliminary communication.